



COLORADO

Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety


Department of Natural Resources

MINERALS PROGRAM INSPECTION REPORT

PHONE: (303) 866-3567

The Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety has conducted an inspection of the mining operation noted below. This report documents observations concerning compliance with the terms of the permit and applicable rules and regulations of the Mined Land Reclamation Board.

MINE NAME: Dawson Mine	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-1977-392	MINERAL: Clay (general)	COUNTY: Elbert
INSPECTION TYPE: Monitoring	INSPECTOR(S): Patrick Lennberg	INSP. DATE: November 14, 2018	INSP. TIME: 10:45
OPERATOR: The Denver Brick Company	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: Rob Tibbetts and Steve Helzer	TYPE OF OPERATION: 112c - Construction Regular Operation	

REASON FOR INSPECTION: Normal I&E Program	BOND CALCULATION TYPE: None	BOND AMOUNT: \$80,358.00
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: None	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None
WEATHER: Clear and windy	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: December 7, 2018

The following inspection topics were identified as having Problems or Possible Violations. OPERATORS SHOULD READ THE FOLLOWING PAGES CAREFULLY IN ORDER TO ASSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE PERMIT AND APPLICABLE RULES AND REGULATIONS. If a Possible Violation is indicated, you will be notified under separate cover as to when the Mined Land Reclamation Board will consider possible enforcement action.

INSPECTION TOPIC: Revegetation

PROBLEM/POSSIBLE VIOLATION: Problem: There are state-listed noxious weeds present on site. This is a problem for failure to employ weed control methods for state listed noxious weed species within the permitted area, and to reduce the spread of weeds to nearby areas as required by Section 3.1.10 (6) of the rule.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: Implement approved weed control plan and provide proof to the Division that this has been done. If a weed control plan is not already in place, the operator shall develop a weed control and management plan in accordance with Section 3.1.10 (6) of the Rule. This plan should be developed in consultation with the county extension agency, or weed control district office and should include specific control measures to be applied, a schedule for when control measures will be applied and a post-treatment monitoring plan. This weed control plan shall be submitted to the Division as a Technical Revision to the approved plan with the appropriate Technical Revision fee of \$216.00 by the corrective action date.

CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE: 2/04/19

OBSERVATIONS

The Dawson Mine site was inspected by Patrick Lennberg and Peter Hays with the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division/DRMS) at the request of the Operator. The Operator requested the inspection to evaluate the site for final closure reclamation. The Operator was recently informed by The Denver Brick Company corporate office the Castle Rock brick plant would be shutdown permanently and the Dawson Mine site would be reclaimed prior to completing the approved Mining Plan or sold to another party. The Operator wanted to discuss the proposed final reclamation activities required to release the site with the Division ahead of a site visit with representatives from the corporate office later in the month. The site was previously inspected by the Division on November 15, 2017. Mr. Rob Tibbetts and Mr. Steve Helzer with The Denver Brick Company were present during the inspection.

The site is an 112c Construction Materials permit for 28.85 acres for the mining of clay. The Division currently holds a financial warranty in the amount of \$80,358.00, which appeared adequate to reclaim the current site disturbance. A mine sign and boundary markers were observed as required by Rule 3.1.12. The site was inactive during the inspection. The site is divided into three (3) areas; Area 4 located in the northwest corner of the site and north of the access road, Area 3 located in the southwest corner of the site and Area 2 located in the southeast corner of the site which takes the form of a horseshoe shaped disturbance.

Area 4 consists of a relatively flat area most recently used as a stockpile area. The product and overburden stockpiles have been removed and the Operator stated the area was due to be reclaimed soon. The area was partially vegetated with volunteered native grasses.

Area 3 contains a stockpile of calcine in the northwest corner of the area, a well vegetated topsoil stockpile in the southern portion of the area, a well vegetated overburden stockpile in the southwest corner of the area and a partially reclaimed mining area in the east portion of the area. The mining activity removed a portion of the western hill. The mined area was regraded to a 3H:1V slope on all sides creating a basin.

Area 2 contains the current mining disturbance with near vertical highwalls of 15 to 20 feet in height. Mining activities were planned to continue in this area and progress to the southwest and eventually mine through the three hills within the permit area.

Noxious weeds:

Noxious weeds including diffuse knapweed and Canada thistle, Class B listed noxious weeds by the Colorado Department of Agriculture, were observed at the site and has been cited as a problem in this report. Noxious weed problems have been noted in previous inspections (2014 and 2017) and was cited as a problem in 2006. A review of the annual reports indicates that the Operator is implementing the approved weed control plan but to limited success. Please update and revise the current approved weed control plan to better control weeds at the site through a Technical Revision by February 4, 2019.

Mine Plan:

Little to no mining activities have occurred at the site since the last inspection. The site appeared as described in the previous inspection report.

Reclamation Plan:

The approved post-mining land use for the site is rangeland with a maximum reclaimed slope of 3H:1V with four to six inches of topsoil replaced on the disturbed areas.

The Operator stated the tentative plan to reclaim the site was to backfill the Area 2 with the on-site overburden and calcine stockpiles, and push the isolated hill of material back into the pit to match the existing surrounding natural topography, replace the topsoil and vegetate the disturbed areas. Area 4 will require grading out of disturbances, placement of topsoil and seeding.

The option of transferring the reclamation permit to another mining company or the adjacent landowner was discussed during the inspection. The Operator will be required to complete the succession of operator process, pursuant to Rule 1.12, if they elect to transfer the permit.

Photographs taken during the inspection and an inspection map are attached.

Please contact Patrick Lennberg (303)866-3567 ext. 8114 or email at patrick.lennberg@state.co.us if you have any questions regarding this report.

Inspection Contact Address

Rob Tibbetts
The Denver Brick Company
401 Prairie Hawk Dr.
Castle Rock, CO 80109

Cc: Michael Cunningham, DRMS

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1: Mine permit sign



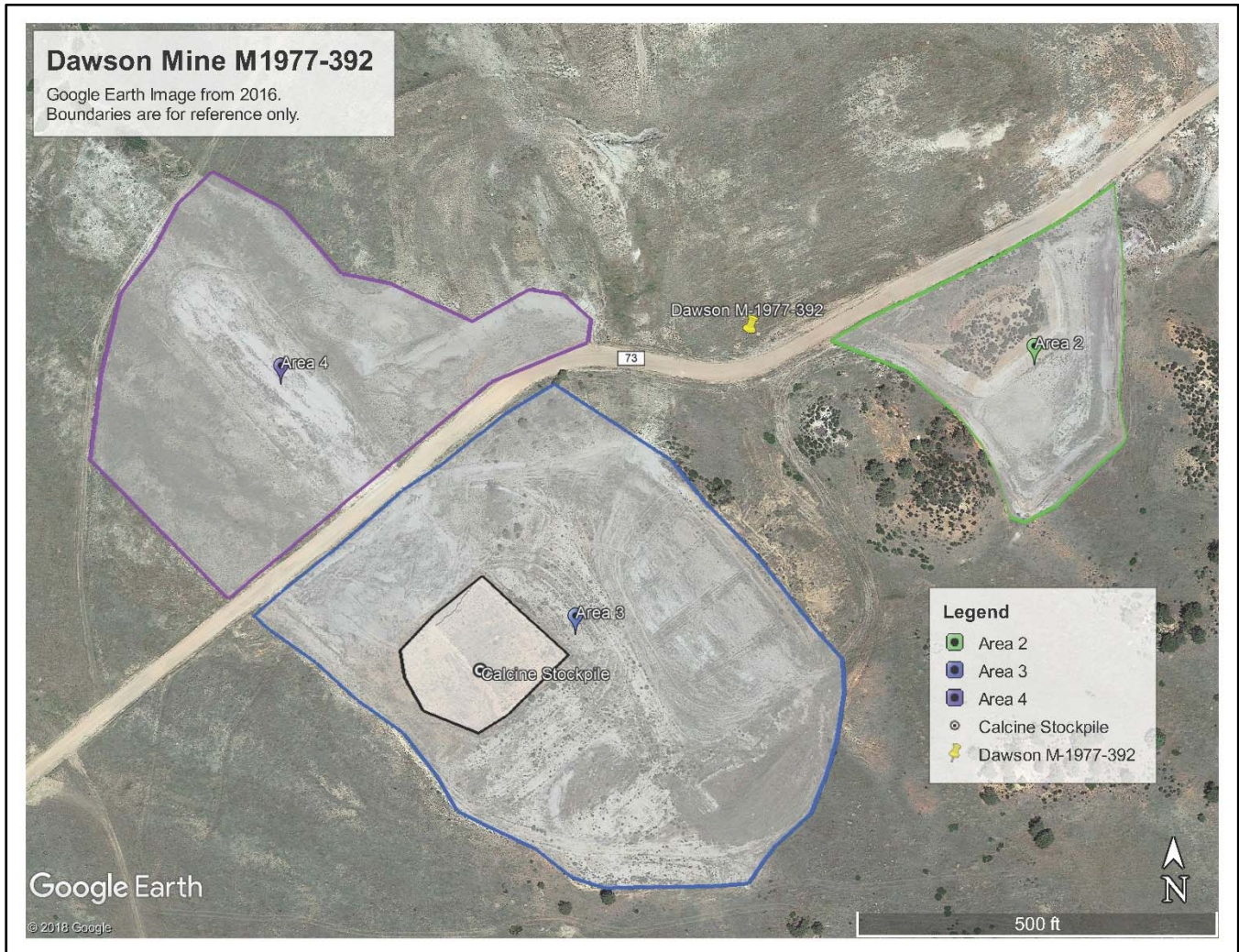
Photo 2: Looking northwest from access road across Area 4



Photo 3: Topsoil stockpile located in Area 3



Photo 4: Area 2, horseshoe pit, with isolated hill of material.



Picture 1: Aerial overview of site.

GENERAL INSPECTION TOPICS

The following list identifies the environmental and permit parameters inspected and gives a categorical evaluation of each

(AR) RECORDS----- <u>Y</u>	(FN) FINANCIAL WARRANTY----- <u>Y</u>	(RD) ROADS----- <u>Y</u>
(HB) HYDROLOGIC BALANCE----- <u>Y</u>	(BG) BACKFILL & GRADING----- <u>N</u>	(EX) EXPLOSIVES----- <u>N</u>
(PW) PROCESSING WASTE/TAILING---- <u>N</u>	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES----- <u>NA</u>	(TS) TOPSOIL----- <u>Y</u>
(MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE- <u>Y</u>	(FW) FISH & WILDLIFE----- <u>N</u>	(RV) REVEGETATION---- <u>PB</u>
(SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS----- <u>Y</u>	(SP) STORM WATER MGT PLAN---- <u>NA</u>	(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- <u>N</u>
(ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE----- <u>N</u>	(SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION-- <u>Y</u>	(ST) STIPULATIONS----- <u>N</u>
(AT) ACID OR TOXIC MATERIALS----- <u>N</u>	(OD) OFF-SITE DAMAGE----- <u>N</u>	

Y = Inspected and found in compliance / N = Not inspected / NA = Not applicable to this operation / PB = Problem cited / PV = Possible violation cited